CLAIMS

1. A data processing method for a data processing host to process a usage mode indication received from a multi-sensory device, the method comprising the steps:

intercepting an inbound communication from the device;

obtaining a usage mode indication for the device from the communication;

prioritising a plurality of data item items into a priority order according to the indicated usage mode of the device, wherein the plurality of data items were received from one or more applications for sending to the device; and

sending data items to the device based on the priority order.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and data items are characterised as either audio or video, and the prioritising step comprises the steps:

allocating video data items higher priority than audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

allocating audio data items higher priority than video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and the data items are characterised as either audio or video and have an assigned priority value, and the prioritising step comprises the steps:

increasing the assigned priority value for video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

increasing the assigned priority value for audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the prioritising step prioritises data items such that the sending step sends exclusively data items suitable for the indicated usage mode of the device.

5. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of:

providing the usage mode indication to one or more applications.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the intercepting step intercepts a communication in a protocol layer which implements any one of: Wireless Truncation Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol; and HyperText Transfer Protocol.

7. A data processing method for a multi-sensory device to communicate a usage mode to a server, the method comprising the steps:

receiving a usage mode indication of the multi-sensory device;

intercepting an outbound communication; and

adding the usage mode indication to the outbound communication.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the further step:

generating the outbound communication which is intercepted by the intercepting step.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the usage mode indication indicates that the device is being used either aurally or visually.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the intercepting step intercepts a communication in a protocol layer which implements any one of: Wireless Truncation Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol; and HyperText Transfer Protocol.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the multi-sensory device is a mobile phone.

12. A data processing apparatus for processing a usage mode indication received from a multi-sensory device, the apparatus comprising:

means for intercepting an inbound communication from the device;

means for obtaining a usage mode indication for the device from the communication;

means for prioritising a plurality of data item items into a priority order according to the indicated usage mode of the device, wherein the plurality of data items were received from one or more applications for sending to the device; and

means for sending data items to the device based on the priority order.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and data items are characterised as either audio or video, and the prioritising means comprises:

means for allocating video data items higher priority than audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

means for allocating audio data items higher priority than video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and the data items are characterised as either audio or video and have an assigned priority value, and the prioritising means comprises:

means for increasing the assigned priority value for video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

means for increasing the assigned priority value for audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

15. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the prioritising means prioritises data items such that the sending means sends exclusively data items suitable for the indicated usage mode of the device.

16. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

means for providing the usage mode indication to one or more applications;

17. A multi-sensory device for communicating a usage mode to a server, the device comprising:

means for obtaining a usage mode indication of the multi-sensory device;

means for intercepting an outbound communication; and

means for adding the usage mode indication to the outbound communication;

18. The device claim 17 further comprising:

means for generating the outbound communication which is intercepted by the intercepting means.

19. The device of claim 17 wherein the usage mode indication indicates that the device is being used either aurally or visually.

20. The device of claim 17 wherein the device is a mobile phone.

21. A computer program product comprising instructions which, when run on a data processing host, cause said data processing host to carry out a method comprising the steps:

intercepting an inbound communication from the device;

obtaining a usage mode indication for the device from the communication;

prioritising a plurality of data item items into a priority order according to the indicated usage mode of the device, wherein the plurality of data items were received from one or more applications for sending to the device; and

sending data items to the device based on the priority order.

22. A computer program product according to claim 21 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and data items are characterised as either audio or video, and the prioritising step comprises the steps:

allocating video data items higher priority than audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

allocating audio data items higher priority than video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

23. A computer program product according to claim 21 wherein the usage mode indication specifies whether the device is being used aurally or visually and the data items are characterised as either audio or video and have an assigned priority value, and the prioritising step comprises the steps:

increasing the assigned priority value for video data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used visually; and

increasing the assigned priority value for audio data items if the usage mode indicates that the device is being used aurally.

24. A computer program product according to claim 21 wherein the prioritising step prioritises data items such that the sending step sends exclusively data items suitable for the indicated usage mode of the device.

25. A computer program product according to claim 21 the method comprising the further step of:

providing the usage mode indication to one or more applications.

26. A computer program product according to claim 21 wherein the intercepting step intercepts a communication in a protocol layer which implements any one of: Wireless Truncation Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol; and HyperText Transfer Protocol.

27. A computer program product comprising instructions which, when run on a data processing host, cause said data processing host to carry out a method comprising the steps:

receiving a usage mode indication of the multi-sensory device;

intercepting an outbound communication; and

adding the usage mode indication to the outbound communication.

28. A computer program product according to claim 25 the method comprising the further step of:

generating the outbound communication which is intercepted by the intercepting step.

29. A computer program product according to claim 27 wherein wherein the usage mode indication indicates that the device is being used either aurally or visually.

30. A computer program product according to claim 27 wherein the intercepting step intercepts a communication in a protocol layer which implements any one of:

Wireless Truncation Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol; and HyperText Transfer Protocol.

31. A computer program product according to claim 27 wherein the intercepting step intercepts a communication in a protocol layer which implements any one of: Wireless Truncation Protocol; Transmission Control Protocol; and HyperText Transfer Protocol.